

**November 2015**

## The Extinguisher

happy  
**THANKSGIVING**

"Putting out the news"

Ashley McDonald, Editor in Chief



### **Birthdays**

Israel Marcella 11/7

Renard Brown 11/10

Keith Elrod 11/10

Kim Lawson 11/10

Jeremy Morris 11/12

Rob Odom 11/14

Carol Whitaker 11/14

Tracy Summar 11/16

Kaye Jernigan 11/21

Michael Bartlett 11/22

Paul Oliver 11/23

Terrence Thomas 11/23

Alvin Brandon 11/25

Keith Bratcher 11/25

### **City Holidays**

MFRD Administrative Offices  
will be closed

**Wednesday, November 11**  
(Veterans Day)

**Thursday, November 26**  
**Friday, November 27**  
(Thanksgiving Holiday)

If you need immediate assistance,  
please visit MFRD Headquarters  
at 202 E. Vine Street or contact  
615-849-2661.

## **REFLECTING ON MFRD SPECIAL OPS PERSONNEL DEPLOYMENT TO SOUTH CAROLINA**

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department's second team of personnel deployed to South Carolina pulled into Fire Administration around 6:00 pm on Sunday, October 11.

They were greeted by family members, co-workers, and Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks. The first team arrived home Saturday, October 10.

"I'm extremely proud of our two rescue teams that represented our department in South Carolina," said Chief Foulks. "We are happy that all of them returned home safely."



Courtesy of Myrtle Beach Online



The first MFRD team consisted of Captain/Shift Inspector Clay Walls, Captain Gary Hutchinson, Driver Jeremy McCullough, and Firefighters Mark Brewer and Jeremy Spivey. They arrived in Columbia on Sunday, October 4 with one of MFRD's medium rescue units, a rescue boat, and an inflatable raft. During the course of their deployment, the team spent a lot of time going door to door conducting welfare checks. They rescued a total of 21 people and six dogs.

"It truly was a wonderful experience for all of us. We feel very fortunate to have been able to help the people of South Carolina," said Captain Clay Walls.

MFRD's second team arrived in Columbia on Thursday, October 8 to relieve the first crew. Drivers Chris Ayers, Doug English, Josh Oliver and Chase Martin, and Firefighters Steve Ellison, Jacob Follis, Matt Welcome, and Mitchell Whittenburg were sent on assignment to Georgetown around 3:00 Friday morning. "We were one of three teams in Georgetown," said Team Leader Josh Oliver. "We spent a lot of time assisting the National Guard, running missions, and helping victims retrieve items such as medications from their residences."

Oliver went on to say, "It was a truly humbling experience. Everyone was thankful for our assistance and very generous. The people of Georgetown and Columbia, South Carolina will always have a special place in our hearts."

The team was relieved from assignment on Saturday morning and sent back to Columbia to begin the demobilization process. While travelling through Conway, SC, a multi-vehicle crash resulted in a car coming to rest against the front of the MFRD rescue truck. MFRD personnel immediately jumped into action, extricating one victim, and providing medical care to the other victims until the local units could arrive on scene. No MFRD personnel were injured and the unit was not damaged. **(Continued on Page 2)**



## DEPLOYMENT CONTINUED...

A message was sent to MFRD's Facebook page from Michaela and James Schrader of South Carolina regarding the incident, "My husband and I were behind the fire truck that was involved in the accident in Conway, SC on October 10th. I believe it was one of your fire trucks. We just wanted to let you know that we are amazed and thankful how your [personnel] handled the situation. Within seconds of the accident they were on the scene and treating people. We have never seen such professionalism and teamwork. If God forbid, we were ever in an accident I would want a team like them to be there for us...they were truly AMAZING! Please pass along our thoughts and prayers to everyone that was involved, you certainly have a fire department to be proud of!"

"This is just one of many positive Facebook messages we received from our new 800+ Facebook followers from South Carolina," said Foulks. "The outpouring of thanks on our page from those living there or those that have ties there has been heartwarming."

"Our continued thoughts and prayers are with the people of South Carolina as they move forward in the recovery process," Foulks continued. "We are honored to have been a part of that process."

## SOUTH CAROLINA TEAMS PRESENT MEMORABILIA TO FIRE RESCUE CHIEF FOULKS AT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The two Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department teams that deployed to South Carolina to aid in flood rescue efforts presented items from their trip to Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks at the City Council Meeting on Thursday, October 15.

Team member Mitchell Whittenburg spoke to Mayor Shane McFarland, City Council members, City Manager Rob Lyons, and the audience about their time in the flooded areas. He discussed their assignments, the gratitude they received from the people there, and their appreciation for the opportunity to help out during the disaster.

Whittenburg reflected on their last night in Columbia, "While eating at a local restaurant, the owner came out to thank us for the service we had provided and asked if we needed anything. We asked if there was anywhere we could buy a South Carolina flag to remember our journey and he replied, 'Give me a minute.' He returned with a brand new flag."

The teams presented Chief Foulks that very flag, embroidered with the names of all the team members and "Joaquin Floods 2015."



"On behalf of all team members that spent time in South Carolina, we would like to thank City Manager Rob Lyons and Chief Foulks for giving us the opportunity to use our skills, knowledge, and training to assist the citizens during their time of need."

During the demobilization process, each team member received a challenge coin from the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency as a token of their appreciation. MFRD team members Josh Oliver and Chase Martin presented Chief Foulks and City Manager Rob Lyons with the same challenge coin.

"You were just as much a part of this team as the rest of us," Whittenburg told them.

Mayor McFarland expressed his thanks to the responders and Chief Foulks. He noted that sometimes questions are raised as to why our resources are sent out of state. He explained that it is a firefighter's nature to want to help where help is needed.

(L to R) Front Row: Captain Gary Hutchinson, Driver Doug English, Driver Josh Oliver, Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks, Firefighter Steve Ellison, Firefighter Jacob Follis, Firefighter Matt Welcome

Second Row: Driver Chris Ayers, Driver Chase Martin, Firefighter Mitchell Whittenburg, Firefighter Jeremy Spivey

Third Row: Driver Jeremy McCullough, Firefighter Mark Brewer

More pictures on Page 5

## TAILBOARD TOPICS: OCTOBER ANSWER

**Question:** What concept was developed from The International Society of Fire Service Instructors' published position statement that encourages fire departments "to adjust their tactical plans and training programs to incorporate NIST & UL-FSRI fire dynamic research concepts into their emergency response operations?"

**Answer:** The acronym **S.L.I.C.E.R.S.**

Size up all scenes

Locate the fire

Identify & control the flow path (if possible)

Cool the heated space from a safe location

Extinguish the fire

Rescue and Salvage are actions of opportunity that may occur at any time

## [Tailboard Topics]

**Q.** What is it called when heat and smoke in a high pressure area flow toward areas of lower pressure?

## MFRD REMINDS YOU TO "CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES"

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 1 at 2:00 am...time to set your clocks back one hour. It's not just about gaining an extra hour of sleep, Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department wants to remind you that it's also a great time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms!

"Batteries in smoke alarms should be changed twice a year, approximately every six months," said Assistant Fire Marshal Tracy Summar. "A great trick to remembering is to change your batteries when you change your clock each Fall and each Spring."

If you need assistance with changing your batteries or need additional smoke alarms in your home, contact MFRD Fire Administration Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:30 pm at 615-893-1422 to take advantage of Project S.A.F.E. "Smoke Alarms for Everyone." MFRD offers free smoke alarms/installation to the citizens of Murfreesboro, even specialty alarms for the hearing or visually impaired.

Remember, you should have smoke alarms on every level of your home including the basement, in every bedroom, and outside sleeping areas. Smoke alarms should also be tested monthly.

"Having working smoke alarms in your home is extremely important," said Summar. "It can cut your risks of fire-related death in half."

Here's a public service announcement from the City of Murfreesboro to remind you to "Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries": <http://youtu.be/gL407DQNsY>.

## SIMMS NAMED FIREFIGHTER OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER 2015

Firefighter David Simms has been named Firefighter of the Month for November 2015.

He was nominated by Captain/Shift Inspector Brian Lowe who also serves as the Special Events Team Coordinator. His nomination email read, "I would like to nominate David Simms for the next FF of the month award due to his dedication and service to the Special Events Team. Since joining the team this year, he has participated in nearly every event that was scheduled on his day off. More importantly, he has been flexible enough to fill in on short notice to overcome staffing short falls. He is setting the standard for service and has demonstrated initiative to serve well beyond what was expected of him."

*Simms has been with MFRD since January 2000.*





## SMITHSON NAMED NOON EXCHANGE CLUB'S "FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR"

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department Firefighter Andy Smithson was named Noon Exchange Club's Firefighter of the Year at the Annual Crime and Fire Prevention Awards Luncheon at Five Senses Restaurant on Thursday, October 15.

Smithson received the honor for his life saving efforts while on a family vacation to Disneyland in California. While in the park one day, Smithson and his family encountered a father who had a baby in a stroller that was choking and blue.

Smithson, a licensed Advanced Emergency Medical Technician, immediately leapt into action. He performed the proper skills necessary to clear the baby's airway, and removed the object from its mouth. The child began to cry and breathe normally.

According to Captain Jamie Bigelow, who nominated Smithson, a large group of people gathered during the incident and Smithson just moved back into the crowd. "Andy is not only a humble man, but he is a true hero," said Bigelow in his letter.

"Andy is an outstanding employee. His work ethic is impeccable, and he is a professional both on and off an emergency scene," said Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks. "He is a great asset to this department, and we are very proud to have him represent us as this year's Firefighter of the Year!"

Smithson's wife Susan and Father-in-law Charlie Armstrong were in attendance, along with his crew: Captain Jamie Bigelow and Firefighter Kernie Cothran, and other members of MFRD.

Smithson has been with MFRD since October 2007.

**Pictured Top Right: Andy and wife Susan**



**(L to R): Deputy Chief Roger Toombs, Shift Commander Tim Swann, Firefighter Kernie Cothran, Firefighter Andy Smithson, Captain Jamie Bigelow, and Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks**



PICTURES FROM SOUTH CAROLINA DEPLOYMENT





CITIZENS FIRE ACADEMY GRADUATION PICTURES





## NOTABLE MEDICAL CALL

BY: ASSISTANT CHIEF KIM LAWSON

Congratulations to Ladder and Engine 1 for being at the right place, at the right time, with the right equipment in hand. Their prompt assessment and treatment saved a life.

On August 7, Ladder and Engine 1 were standing by at the “Friday Night Live” concert on the square. A police officer approached them and stated that a man was having a heart attack. MFRD personnel retrieved their medical bag and AED. They quickly made their way to a 40 year old man on the ground, with a bystander performing CPR. The patient had agonal respirations and was pulseless. The personnel inserted an airway with high flow oxygen, and placed the AED on the patient. The AED advised to shock and after the delivery, CPR was resumed. In a matter of seconds, the patient’s pulse returned, along with his respirations. The patient had a strong radial pulse, showing adequate perfusion. RCEMS arrived within four minutes of the beginning of MFRD’s treatment. With the assistance of Firefighter Julia Pitt, patient care was continued en route to Saint Thomas Rutherford. The patient was discharged with an internal Cardiac Defibrillator and has made a full recovery.



Ventricular fibrillation is one of the most common causes of sudden cardiac arrest. Without the rapid administration of an AED and CPR, this heart rhythm can quickly deteriorate to asystole, with much less chance of recovery.

Crew members were Captain Jamie Bigelow, Captain Blake Insell, Driver Guy Matthews, Firefighter Wesley Slager, and Firefighter Kermie Cothran.

## SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE ALEXANDER FAMILY

MFRD Shift Commander Daryl Alexander and wife Karen would like to thank the personnel of MFRD, their family members, and the public for coming to the two bone marrow drives the department hosted in October for their daughter Jenna-Leigh Beasley.

She recently discovered she has Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS), a rare form of cancer that normally affects persons of 60 years and older. She is only 27.

A total of 66 people responded to the call to get tested and became registered bone marrow donors.



If you missed the drives, you can obtain a test kit online at [bethematch.org](http://bethematch.org). You must be 18-44 years old and free of infection.

## WILLS FOR HEROES OFFERED NOVEMBER 14

The Tennessee Bar Association Young Lawyers Division will be hosting a “Wills for Heroes Clinic” on November 14 at the Murfreesboro Police Department Annex located at 324 South Church Street.

If interested, you will need to contact I’ashea Myles Dihigo at 615-730-7955 or [jhall@limestone-title.com](mailto:jhall@limestone-title.com) to make an appointment.



*“Picture Perfect Moment” by Captain Jamie Bigelow  
Bigelow captured this photo of Ladder 7 right after the fog  
lifted on a cool October morning.*



## MESSAGE FROM CAPTAIN KURT MCMAHAN

*As you all know, my son's six year battle with cancer has ended. He is resting peacefully now, with no more pain. I wanted to extend my sincere gratitude to my family at Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department for the many years of support. Over the years, each of you took time to ask me, "How is Chase?" This simple act of compassion took a small piece of struggle from me. It was a tremendous help during his fight.*

*I have decided to return to duty quickly; I feel that getting back to a normal routine will assist me in the recovery process. If anyone you know is faced with this unfortunate journey, it would be my pleasure to help them in any way. Helping others on a similar journey would be a great tribute from me to Chase.*

*Thank you all again and God bless every one of you!*

*In Loving Memory*



*Chase Logan McMahan*

*June 3 1991 - October 24, 2015*



### **November Anniversaries**

#### **28 YEARS**

John Avaritt  
Mike Mitchell

#### **27 YEARS**

Kyle Cobb  
Jeff Day  
Carl Peas  
Kaye Jernigan

#### **20 YEARS**

Hunter Fite  
Jeremy McCullough  
Tim Rowlett  
Wade Williams

#### **14 YEARS**

Tim Corder

#### **3 YEARS**

Matthew Twomey



If you notice MFRD personnel providing exemplary service, displaying professionalism, or representing the City of Murfreesboro in a positive light, please share your experience by nominating them for a Service Excellence Stars Award.

Click here for more information or to [Nominate a STAR.](#)

## "LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK FOR OUR LATEST NEWS



Be sure to "like" Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department to keep up with what's going on in the department. Our page includes press releases, photos, safety tips, etc.



**MFRD WOULD LIKE TO SAY "THANK YOU" TO ALL VETERANS.**

**JOHN MICHAEL FROST**

**SON OF DAVID & HEATHER**

**OCTOBER 14, 2015**

**8 LBS  
22 1/4" LONG**

